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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10007711-1

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Phyllis A. Ellendman

Confirmation No.: 8593

Application No.: 09/916,971

Examiner: Michael Roswell

Filing Date: July 26, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2173

Title: E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION WITH VERSATILE ADDRESS REMOVAL

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF REPLY BRIEF

Transmitted herewith is the Reply Brief with respect to the Examiner's Answer mailed on August 24, 2006.

This Reply Brief is being filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.193(b) within two months of the date of the Examiner's Answer.

(Note: Extensions of time are not allowed under 37 CFR 1.136(a))

(Note: Failure to file a Reply Brief will result in dismissal of the Appeal as to the claims made subject to an expressly stated new ground rejection.)

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Respectfully submitted,

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SUBJECT: E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION WITH VERSATILE ADDRESS REMOVAL

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REPLY BRIEF

Appellant herein replies to new points raised in the Examiner's Answer for the above-identified case.

ARGUMENT

A. New Arguments raised by Examiner:

1. Confirmation checkboxes 50 of Figure 2 of *Meister*.

In the Examiner's Answer, dated August 24, 2006, Examiner for the first time has argued that confirmation checkboxes 50 of Figure 2 of USPN 6,671,718 (*Meister*) are pertinent to the Examiner's reasoning for the rejection

of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Specifically, the Examiner has argued as follows:

As to the difference between the "control" of Meister and the "field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed", the examiner contends that appellant has failed to recognize the alias fields and address fields found in the "Modify Addresses" dialog box as such "field[s] of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed". By manipulating the confirmation checkbox 50, the address field 42 is used to specify whether or not the listed address will receive the e-mail message. See col. 3, lines 57-66.

Therefore, the alias and address fields seen in Fig. 2 are analogous to appellant's claimed "field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed," as the user may selectively specify which addresses will receive the message and which will not.

See the Examiner's Answer dated August 24, 2006 at page 6, lines 3 through 11.

1. Response to New Argument Raised by Examiner

The Examiner appears to be arguing that operation of the conformation boxes 50, shown in Figure 2 of Meister, is somehow connected to operation of modify addresses control 46 described by Meister at column 3, lines 45 through 50. This is incorrect.

Confirmation boxes 50 are described by Meister at column 3, line 57 through column 4, line 3. Confirmation boxes 50 work with send control 44. When the send control 44 is activated the system checks to see if all of the confirmation boxes 50 have been checked, provides an overlay dialog box that all confirmation boxes must be marked before the message is sent if all have not been marked and will not send the message until all the confirmation boxes are

marked. Alternatively, it will generate a new list without those names marked and the dialog box 30 with the alert will appear again.

The use of confirmation boxes 50 by Meister differs significantly from the field of the e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from a "To" field as set out, for example, by claim 1 of the present case.

For example, confirmation boxes 50 are not a field of an e-mail message and never appear within an e-mail message. Rather confirmation boxes 50 are only used within a dialog box 30 of a system that monitors initiation of an electronic message. See Meister at Figure 2 and column 3, lines 26 through 27.

Additionally, confirmation boxes 50 do not function to specify addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from a "To" field as set out by, for example, claim 1 of the present case. Confirmation boxes 50 only specify addresses that need to be confirmed before an e-mail message can be sent. If all the addresses are confirmed, the e-mail message is sent. If all the messages are not confirmed, a dialog box will indicate that all confirmation boxes must be marked before the message is sent. Alternatively, a new list will be shown in dialog box 30. The new list includes those e-mail messages that are not confirmed. The user of the system must check confirmation boxes 50 to confirm these addresses before the e-mail will be sent.

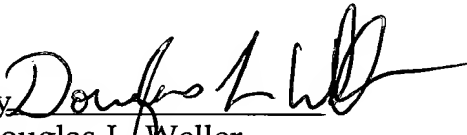
In Meister, no addresses are removed by the system that monitors initiation of an electronic message. Meister only asks for confirmation of recipients before an e-mail message is sent. In order to remove addresses from

an e-mail message, a user has to do this manually. Meister does not disclose or suggest a field of an e-mail message used to specify addresses to be removed by the electronic mail system from a "To" field, as set out by claim 1 of the present case.

CONCLUSION

For all the reasons discussed above and in the Appeal Brief, Appellant believes the rejection of the claims was in error and respectfully requests that the rejection be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,
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September 15, 2006
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